

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated March 12, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire June 12, 2004. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 13-15, 18-21 and 25 are pending. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-4, 6 and 8. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Claim Rejections under 35 C.F.R. §103

On page 2 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, 13-15, 18-21 and 25 are rejected under 35 C.F.R. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goldenfield, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,960,984) in view of *Uhling, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,193) and *Allais* (U.S. Patent No. 4,794,239). That rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration of the claims is requested.

Claim 9 in the present application recites an apparatus, including:

"the human-readable form of the serial number appears in a first order, and the machine-readable form of the serial number appears in an order different from the first order"

Claim 15 in the present application recites a method, including:

"dividing and encoding the unique characters of the serial number among the codes following the order characters encoded in step (b), such that an order of the serial number in the machine-readable codes differs from an order of the serial number in the human-readable code"

Further, independent Claim 21 in the present application recites a method, including:

"forming the serial number on the apparatus in a human-readable code that differs in order from an order of the machine-readable array codes"

With regard to the present rejection, neither *Goldenfield*, *Uhling*, *Allais* nor any combination thereof, shows or suggests these elements of the independent claims in the present application.

For example, with respect to exemplary Claim 9 in the present application, it is recited that the "human-readable" serial number appears in a "first order." Claim 9 further recites that a "machine-readable" serial number appears "in an order different from the first order." On page 2 of the present Office Action, it is explained that *Goldenfield* teaches a human-readable version of the serial number etched into the rod at Figure 6 in col. 4, lines 40-41. However, this symbol 16 is not necessarily related to the, machine-readable number 14 taught by *Goldenfield*. More importantly, the symbol 16 in no way represents the same serial number as barcode 14 but ordered in a different order, as is required by the independent claims in the present application. Consequently, *Goldenfield* does not show or suggest the present invention.

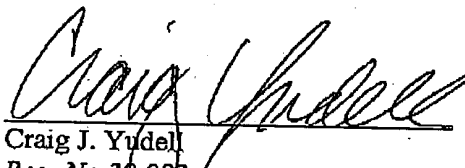
With respect to *Uhling* and *Allais*, the Examiner argues that *Uhling* in combination with *Goldenfield* would suggest to someone skilled in the art the use of "bi-directionally scannable barcodes" but does not suggest reordering of a human-readable version of the serial number. The Examiner further argues on pages 3 and 4 of the present Office Action that *Allais* teaches inserting codes for the ordering of characters and the grouping of words to identify the object. The Examiner does not argue, nor do the references suggest that *Allais* in combination with *Goldenfield* and *Uhling* show reordering the human-readable version of the serial number.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims. Applicants submit that *Goldenfield* in view of *Uhling* and further in view of *Allais* do not show or suggest the limitations in independent claims 9, 15, and 21, and further in the respective dependent claims, of a "machine-readable" serial number having an order different that the serial number in the "human-readable" serial number. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the pending claims in the present application under §103 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account Number 09-0466.

Respectfully submitted,



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